

**Task Number: G20120763**

**General Information**

**Lead Assignee:** OEDO (Rihm)

**OEDO Due Date:** 10/09/2012

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** 10/12/2012 - NOON

**Other Parties:**

**Subject:** Requests for Assurance of Investigation at SONGS

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** NRR, OGC, RegionIV

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:**

**Response / Package:**

**Other Information**

**Cross Reference** LTR-12-0568

**SRM\Other:** No

**Process Information**

**Action Type:** Letter

**OEDO Concurrence:** Yes

**Signature Level:** OCM Signature, Chairman Macfarlane

**OCM Concurrence:** No

**Special Instructions:**

**OCA Concurrence:** Yes

Please prepare a response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). Region IV and NRR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

**Document Information**

**Originator Name:** Senator Barbara Boxer

**Date of Incoming:** 10/04/2012

**Originator Org:** Congress

**Document Received by OEDO Date:** 10/05/2012

**Date Response Requested by:** 10/12/2012

**Addressee:** Chairman Macfarlane

**Originator:**

**Incoming Task:** Letter

**OEDO POC:** Roger Rihm

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Oct 05, 2012 10:35

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0568 LOGGING DATE: 10/05/2012

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Barbara Boxer

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Allison Macfarlane

SUBJECT: Requests for reassurance that the NRC will complete its investigation into the causes of unusual tube wear at the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant before evaluating Southern California Edison's request to restart the facility

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 10/04/2012

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence.  
Response requested by Friday, October 12, 2012. An extension was not granted so please expedite. Due to SECY: 10/12 Noon.

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 10/12/2012 - Noon

DATE SIGNED:

BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
RUTH VAN MARK, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 4, 2012

The Honorable Allison Macfarlane  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

I am writing to ask for reassurance from you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will complete its investigation into the causes of unusual tube wear at the San Onofre nuclear power plant before evaluating Southern California Edison's request to restart the facility. The NRC's focus must be on fulfilling its safety mission and providing the millions of people who live near San Onofre with the peace of mind that the reactors are safe.

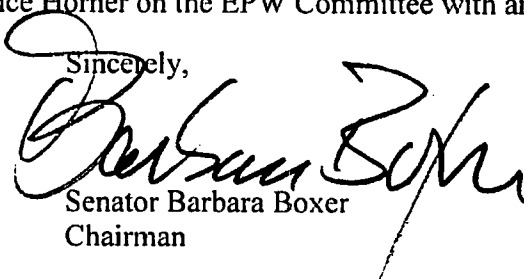
In July, the NRC issued a report that identified "unresolved items" requiring additional review, including the manufacturing of the tubes and the modeling of the steam generators' operation. The NRC has not yet completed its investigation at San Onofre, which is a crucial step to understanding whether the plant can be operated safely.

When you testified before the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) in September, you committed to me that the NRC would conduct a thorough investigation to ensure that the plant is safe to operate. You also said: "We will not let them start up unless we are absolutely convinced that it is safe to operate..." and your colleagues agreed.

I want to make certain that the NRC fully understands the causes of the unusual tube deterioration, is confident that the plant can be safely restarted given the current condition of the tubes, and has determined that the facility can be safely operated in the future.

I request that you respond to me in writing by October 12, 2012, that you will live up to the commitment you and your fellow Commissioners made to not restart the San Onofre reactors until the NRC completes its investigation and the public has been assured of the plant's safety. Please contact Grant Cope or Terrance Horner on the EPW Committee with any other questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Barbara Boxer  
Chairman

**CC: Kristine L. Svinicki, NRC Commissioner  
George Apostolakis, NRC Commissioner  
William D. Magwood, IV, NRC Commissioner  
William C. Ostendorff, NRC Commissioner**